

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Jarraff Industries Inc

Enterprise Minnesota

Enterprise Minnesota Helps Jarraff Increase Efficiency Through Lean Manufacturing

Client Profile:

Jarraff Industries manufactures mechanical tree trimmers and brush mowers for clients throughout the world. Primarily, Jarraff sells to customers in the states that are responsible for clearing land and maintaining utility right-of-ways. Key products include the Jarraff, a mechanical tree trimmer and the company's original product, and the Geo-Boy, a brush mower that boasts the most horsepower for its small size in the industry. Founded more than 30 years ago as a family business, the company employs 13 people at its facility in St. Peter, Minnesota.

Situation:

Jarraff Industries has a strong commitment to quality, service and customer satisfaction. Boyum, a member of Enterprise Minnesota, a NIST MEP network affiliate, CEO roundtables, in which business leaders discuss ways to improve their company, decided that Jarraff Industries needed to take steps to create a self sustaining continuous improvement environment.

Solution:

Enterprise Minnesota worked with Jarraff Industries to develop and implement a comprehensive program in Lean manufacturing. The goal of Lean Enterprise is to provide additional capacity, and to create improved processes that result in higher margins as well as reduced lead times. Jarraff brought together a cross-sectional team of employees to work on the project and mapped out a plan to emphasize capacity, lead time, facility /cell layout and employee performance. Jarraff worked through four phases of the project that focused on different areas of the company's facility: the brush mower assembly shop; the fabrication area; the tree trimmer assembly area; and the service parts, paint and machining areas. Enterprise Minnesota provided a Lean overview and then Kaizen rapid improvement events that utilized 5S (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain) principles, and moved equipment and storage locations to gain efficiency and flow. The goal of the Kaizen event process is to create additional capacity that can be used for additional sales, reduced lead time, or both. Each event concluded with the Jarraff team creating a 30-day action plan for any elements not completed during the Kaizen.

Results:

- *Increased production by 30 percent.
- *Reduced production costs by 25 percent.
- *Improved employee efficiency and morale.

Testimonial:

"The total project was excellent. Getting the parts closer to where they are used and making them accessible was a huge improvement for us."

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Kim Goerger, Operations Manager